were issued by the zonal office of the MCD;

(b) if so, whether 101 Assistant Teachers were asked to exercise their option within one month with regard to fixation of their pay in the Senior Scale;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken in respect of the Assistant Teachers, who could not exercise their option within a stipulated period in the absence of any communication from MCD, to avoid recurring monetary loss to such affected teachers of MCD?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARISEUA): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has intimated that the Government instructions regarding option to be exercised for fixation of pay was circulated to all the Zonal Assistant Education Officers vide their Circular dated 3.8.1989. These instructions were displayed by Zonal Assistant Education Officers for information and necessary action by the concerned teachers. Such option should have been exercised by the teachers within one month from the date of such appointments as per instructions.

Licences for exploration in Minable areas

4326. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign multinational CRA exploration has applied for prospecting licences for a total of 85,200 sq. minable area in six blocks spread over six States;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer block area-wise/State-wise;

(c) what are the details of minable deposits for which licences are sought and what total investment is likely to be made by CRA exploration;

(d) what are the rules governing grant of prospecting licences;

(e) to what extent these rules have been relaxed in the case of CRA exploration;

(f) whether any other foreign or Indian company has also applied for the grant of prospecting licences;

(g) if so, what are the details in this regard in respect of each company; and

(h) by when a final decision is liekly to be taken for the grant of prospecting licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (h). The information is being collected from the various State Govemments/UTs and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Aluminium produced in Damanjodi Plant in Orissa

4327. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aluminium product in Damanjodi plant in undivided Koraput district, Orissa has great demand in the International market;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of aluminium;

(c) the programme drawn up for 1994-95 and also for the coming years in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has an Alumina Refinery at Damanjodi in Koraput district of Orissa. Alumina produced in the above plant is of international quality but demand for Alumina in the International Market has been depressed since 1993 due to glut of Alumina. The Company is producing Alumina as per plans and has planed to export 3.75 lakh metric tonnes during 1994-95. The Company hopes to maintain this level of export during the 9th plan period.

Gold Exploration

4328. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the impact of the new mining policy and the incentives offered by-

Government during the Round Table on mining held in New Delhi in April, 1994 with regard to attracting the attention of the top mining companies in the world for gold exploration in India;

(b) what are the details of the foreign companies which have so far applied for gold exploration and mining rights in India and under what terms and conditions;

(c) whether any Indian company having experience in the field, has also applied for gold exploration; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take on the offers received so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). No incentives were offered during the International Round Table Conference organised by the Ministry in April, 1994. However, opening up of the mineral sector for private investment has generated interest. As per provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, prospecting licences and mining leases can be given only to companies as defined under sub-section 1 of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956. Such licences/leases are given by the concerned State Government. Hence question of applying for such rights to the Central Government does not arise.

Production of MICA in Rajasthan

4329. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names and locations of all the Mica Mines in the country as on 31st July, 1994;

(b) the annual mica production at each of these mines during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (till 30th June, 1994) particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) whether these mines are functioning to their full capacities, if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken any concrete steps so that mica mining can get a boost indicating whether any modification in procurement policy for mica scrap has been made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The names and location of all the Mica Mines in the country as of June, 1994 is given in statement *{see* below).

(b) The annual Mica production for the entire country and for the State of Rajasthan during 1992-93,1993-94 and 1994-95 (till June' 94) is as under:—

(Figures in tonnes)

	I992-93(P)		1993-94(P)		1994 -' (Til	95(P) 1 June
	Mica (Crude)	Waste & scrap	Mica (Crude)	Waste & scrap	Mica (Crude)	Waste & scrap
Rajasthan	165	446	70	167	19	9
Whole	2507	1490	2099	1019	424	141

P—Provisional

(c) No, Sir. The main reasons, identified for the mines not functioning to their full capacity is the high cost of mining at deeper levels and lack of demand in the International Market on account of substitutes from mica and its products having been developed.

(d) In order that mica mining can get a boost, the Government has modified the procurement policy for mica scrap and thereby encourage establishment of industries providing mica based value added products.

Statement

List of Mica Mines as of June, 1994

SI. No.	Name of Mine	Village
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	Narsimha	Batulapalli